

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Medium for detecting and/or identifying microorganisms present in a sample, comprising a culture medium and at least one substrate that can be hydrolysed to a labelled product by at least a first enzyme not free in the sample, and specific for said microorganisms, characterized in thatwherein it also comprises at least one inhibitor of at least a second enzyme, different from the first enzyme or identical to it, but free in said sample and not originating from a microorganism.

2. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the microorganism is a bacterium.

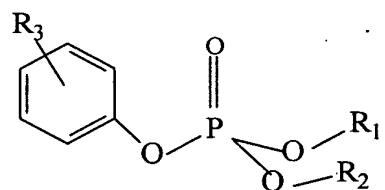
3. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 2, characterized in thatwherein said bacterium belongs to the *Salmonella* genus.

4. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the microorganism is a yeast.

5. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 4, characterized in thatwherein said yeast belongs to the *Candida* genus.

6. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to ~~any one of Claims 1 to 5~~ Claim 1, characterized in thatwherein said first enzyme is an esterase.

7. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 6, characterized in thatwherein the inhibitor is a compound of formula (I)



in which R₁ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl or halogen group,

R₂ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl or halogen group,

R₃ is nothing, or an alkyl, aryl or NO₂ group.

8. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 7, characterized in thatwherein the inhibitor is O,O-diethyl p-nitrophenyl phosphate and/or O,O-dimethyl p-nitrophenyl phosphate and/or O,O-di-(2-chloroethyl)-O-(3-chloro-4-methylcoumarin-7-yl) phosphate and/or at least one derivative of these molecules.

9. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to Claim 8, characterized in thatwherein the concentration of O,O-diethyl p-nitrophenyl phosphate or its derivative in the detection medium is between 0.1 and 15 mg/l, preferably between 1 and 10 mg/l.

10. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to

Claim 8, characterized in thatwherein the concentration of O,O-dimethyl p-nitrophenyl phosphate or its derivative in the detection medium is between 0.1 and 100 mg/l, preferably between 10 and 50 mg/l.

11. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to

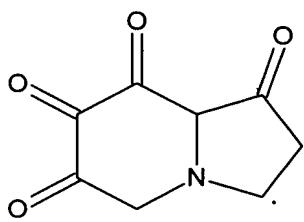
Claim 8, characterized in thatwherein the concentration of O,O-di-(2-chloroethyl)-O-(3-chloro-4-methylcoumarin-7-yl) phosphate or its derivative in the detection medium is between 1 and 1000 mg/l, preferably between 30 and 100 mg/l.

12. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to any one of Claims 1 to 5Claim 1, characterized in thatwherein said first enzyme is an osidase,

preferably a glucosidase.

13. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to any one of ClaimsClaim 12, characterized in thatwherein the inhibitor is a compound of formula

(II):



(II)

or a derivative of this compound.

14. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to

Claim 13, characterized in thatwherein the concentration of compound of formula (II) or its

derivative in the detection medium is preferably between 1 and 10 g/l, and even more preferably between 2 and 8 g/l.

15. (Currently Amended) Detection and/or identification medium according to any one of Claims 1 to 14~~Claim 1~~, characterized in that wherein said substrate is a chromogenic substrate, preferably an ester of indoxylo or of its derivatives.

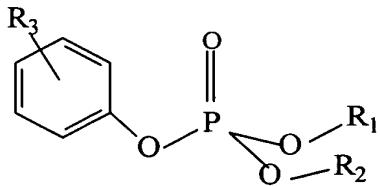
16. (Currently Amended) Method for detecting and/or identifying microorganisms, comprising:

seeding the microorganisms to be identified onto a detection medium, according to any one of Claims 1 to 15~~Claim 1~~,

incubating the detection medium seeded with the microorganisms to be identified, and determining the presence of microorganisms by detecting the substrate(s) hydrolysed to a labelled product.

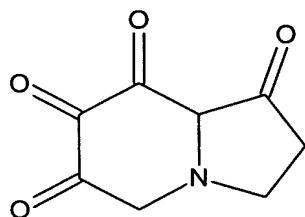
17. (Currently Amended) Use of the detection and/or identification medium according to any one of Claims 1 to 15~~Claim 1~~, for identifying microorganisms.

18. (Original) Use of a compound of formula (I)



in which R₁ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl or halogen group,
R₂ is a hydrogen atom, or an alkyl, aryl or halogen group,
R₃ is nothing, or an alkyl, aryl or NO₂ group,
for inhibiting a free enzyme in a sample.

19. (Original) Use of a compound of formula (II)



for inhibiting a free enzyme in a sample.